



# BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 11, No. 18 December 1, 1986

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A newspaper devoted exclusively  
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL  
Vol. 11, No. 18 December 1, 1986

## On the cover...

Dennis Gentry (29) and  
Thomas Sanders discuss  
strategy before a kickoff  
in a recent game. (Bear  
Report photo by Steve  
Woltmann)



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## Commentary



By  
Doug  
Buffone



## Defense does it again

Defense, defense, defense.

This is getting incredible. The Bear defense turned in yet another outstanding performance Sunday, this time against the Packers in Chicago's 12-10 win.

Fans are beginning to expect the defense to play fantastic all the time, even though we know it can't. There's a lot of unrealistic pressure on the defense, but it keeps responding well.

How much longer the defense can keep this up no one knows. But let's hope it doesn't end soon.

Dan Hampton had another great game. He had three and a half sacks and was in the Packer backfield like a kid with a hand in the cookie jar. He was always coming up with something good.

Richard Dent also made some outstanding plays. And both Dent and Hampton got some help from Steve McMichael. In fact, the entire defensive line played well.

The game was a typical Bears-Packers slugfest, not unlike many I've played in. But the play that Charles Martin made on Jim McMahon was one of the most ridiculous things I've ever seen on the football field. That wasn't even close to being a fair hit.

And just as bad was the way the other Packer players reacted to it. They were giving Martin high-fives on the sideline. If Martin was one of my teammates I would have slapped him myself.

That has no business on the playing field and he should get at least a three or four-game suspension out of it.

Besides that, the Bears did make some errors in the

game. William Perry's fumble at the goal line was costly. And the special teams had a punt blocked.

But a lot of good also came out of the game. For one thing McMahon had a chance to play for over three quarters. He wasn't that sharp in the game, but he got the playing time he needed. And don't forget that a couple of his passes were dropped, too.

The special teams also made up for the blocked punt by coming up with one of their own for a touchdown. And Kevin Butler came through with the game-winning field goal. And the defense showed why it's the best in the league.

Give credit to the Bears for adjusting well in the game. When something didn't work, they went down another avenue and found an opening. The hitting and intensity was there the entire game. It's just that the execution was lacking at times. Once the Bears get that down they'll have no problems.

You also have to give some credit to the Packer defense, which played a good game. But at the end the Bears proved they did enough to win the game. It won't get any easier, but the Bears are getting stronger.

The defense is playing consistent, so now we're just looking for the offense to catch on.

The "Doug Buffone-Rich King Show" can be seen on cable on Sportsvision in the Chicago area every Friday night at 7 p.m.



Richard Dent, who had two sacks for 13 yards in Sunday's game, was one of the many Bear defensive players who played well again against Green Bay. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



# Bears vent their anger on Green Bay

By Michael Polzin  
Managing Editor

CHICAGO — The Green Bay Packers should know not to make the Bears mad at them. But that's just what they did, and Chicago made them pay for it with some tough defense and a 12-10 win Sunday at Soldier Field.

But it wasn't easy, as the Bears needed a 32-yard field goal by Kevin Butler with just over two minutes left to come from behind a 10-9 deficit to win.

Coupled with Minnesota's loss to Cincinnati, the win clinched a tie for the NFC Central Division title for the Bears.

The play that ignited the Bears in the first half was a late hit, or tackle to be more exact, by Green Bay's Charlie Martin against Jim McMahon with 7:55 left in the half. McMahon had just thrown a short pass across midfield that was intercepted by the Packers' Mark Lee.

After the play Martin picked up McMahon and threw him to the turf on his right shoulder, resulting in an unnecessary roughness penalty and Martin's ejection from the game.

"They got some players that are really questionable," said Bears coach Mike Ditka. "It's uncalled for. I have nothing to do with Charles Martin and hopefully I never do."

Said McMahon about the hit, "I'm not surprised. It was a blatant thing to do. That's the way the Packers are sometimes. They try to intimidate us with things like that, but it really doesn't intimidate us at all."

Television cameras showed Martin had a hit list on the towel he was wearing on the sidelines with (in the order on the towel) the following Bears' numbers on it: 9, McMahon; 34, Walter Payton; 29, Dennis Gentry; 83, Willie Gault; and 63, Jay Hilgenberg.

"Those are key guys on the Bears' team and we just wanted to put one or two of them out and help our chances at winning," Martin said. "I had it in my mind that we were going to go in and try to take some key guys out . . . to go in there and knock some guys out and you know, possibly win the game."

About the play Martin said, "We got the interception and I'm trying to knock somebody down so maybe Lee can run. Jim McMahon was there and I just took him down."

When asked if he would do it again Martin said, "No, not as rough. I felt terrible, but I think justice has been done (with the ejection)."

## Bears' defense smothers Packers

When he left for the locker room Martin was doused with cups from the fans and Green Bay's offense was doused with Bears.

In the rest of the half, Green Bay's offense gained just 11 total yards on 18 plays.

After Martin's ejection Green Bay took over at its own

25. When quarterback Randy Wright was sacked by Richard Dent for a loss of 10 yards on 3rd down Green Bay's Don Bracken was forced to punt from his own goal line.

Shaun Gayle then came across to block the punt and Gentry recovered the ball in the end zone for Chicago's only touchdown, giving the Bears a 9-0 lead.

The Packers had just 29 total yards in the half, with Wright completing four of 14 passes for 13 yards and two interceptions.

McMahon didn't perform much better, completing six of 19 passes in the half for 30 yards and two interceptions.

McMahon said the hit he took on his shoulder bothered him a little. "It didn't help it," he said. "It's not easy throwing the ball in this field and you just have to deal with it."

The Bears' defense was putting constant pressure on Wright in the half, sacking him twice for 16 yards lost and finishing the game with six sacks.

On the opening drive of the second half the Packers moved to Chicago's five-yard line before Al Del Greco came in to kick a 22-yard field goal.

## Pass play gives Packers lead

The Packers then took a 10-9 lead on a 46-yard pass from Wright to Ed West over Dave Duerson with 7:49 left to play.

"That was one of the dumbest plays I've ever made," said Duerson, who has hardly made any dumb plays this year. "I'm grateful for Mike Singletary and Kevin Butler."

That's because the Bears' defense gave the offense another chance with 6:20 left in the game when Singletary forced a fumble by Gary Ellerson that Duerson recovered at Green Bay's 35-yard line.

Mike Tomczak, who replaced McMahon on the preceding series, moved the Bears to the 14-yard line with a little help from Payton. Payton gained 16 yards on three carries on the 20-yard drive. He also went over 1,000 yards rushing for the season for the 10th time in his career, finishing the game with 85 yards on 17 carries.

Butler then came in to kick his game-winning field goal after missing a 46-yard attempt early in the fourth quarter.

"I didn't really fool with the wind on the last one," Butler said. "It wasn't that far and I just swung straight for the goal posts."

Ditka didn't watch Butler's field goal, saying, "I wanted the fans to tell me if it was good or bad."

Ditka made the quarterback change because McMahon wasn't moving the team well. "I'm just trying to get something going," Ditka said. "I'm sure he hurt his shoulder some. I thought it affected his throwing. He never really let the ball fly."

## Execution still hurting offense

And even with McMahon at quarterback the Bears' offense had problems with execution and interceptions.



Richard Dent celebrates as the referee signals a safety made by Dan Hampton in the first quarter of the Bears' 12-10 win over Green Bay Sunday at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

McMahon finished the game with three interceptions.

"We're not executing very well on offense," Ditka said. "But as much as we're not executing the turnovers really hurt us. That's just bad football. I was glad Kevin made the kick. I'm not happy with the results except that it's a win."

You could almost count on the Bear defense scoring in this game, and that's just what it did in the first quarter.

Dan Hampton broke through the line with Green Bay on its own 6-yard line to tackle Kenneth Davis in the end zone for a safety, giving Chicago a 2-0 lead in the first quarter.

Green Bay had taken over on its own 2-yard line after William Perry fumbled on his first carry as a running back this season. Perry attempted to score on a 3rd and goal at the one when the Packers recovered the loose ball.

The Bears' defense set up the offense for that potential touchdown when Mike Richardson intercepted a Wright pass at the Packers' 32-yard line. It was Richardson's sixth interception of the year.

"I'm very thankful we have our defense," Ditka said. "Dan was outstanding. I don't think he has any love for those guys. The play of the entire defense has been outstanding."

Said Singletary, "We have to go out there and make something happen. And that's what it's all about."

"They had two plays all day. We shut them down," Duerson said.

## Ditka loves beating Packers

And most importantly the Bears got the win — which

Continued Page 18



Jim McMahon lies on the turf in pain after the Packers' Charles Martin slammed him down in the second quarter of Sunday's game. Martin was ejected from the game for the late hit. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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# Bears-Packers Official Statistics

## SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers ..... 0 0 3 7 0 — 10  
Chicago Bears ..... 2 7 0 3 0 — 12

- 1 - Bears: Hampton tackled Davis in end zone for safety  
2 - Bears: Gentry recovered blocked punt in end zone, Butler, kick  
3 - Packers: Del Greco, 22 yard field goal  
4 - Packers: West 46 yard pass from Wright, Del Greco kick  
4 - Bears: Butler, 32 yard field goal

Attendance: 59,291 (tickets distributed 66,030; unused 6,739. Time 3:33.

## FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Packers	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	11	15
By Rushing	3	11
By Passing	7	4
By Penalty	1	0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	2-15	5-17
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1	0-1
TOTAL NET YARDS	195	300
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	60	76
Av. Gain per Off. Play	3.3	3.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	89	198
Total Rushing Plays	25	38
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.6	5.2
NET YARDS PASSING	106	102
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	6-42	0-0
Gross Yds. Passing	148	102
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	29-10	38-15
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	3.0	2.7
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	8-33.4	6-28.2
Had Blocked	1	1
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	71	105
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	1-1	5-32
No. and Yds. KO Returns	3-70	4-70
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	3-0	2-3
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	5-40	4-30
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	1-1	4-2
TOUCHDOWNS		
Rushing	0	0
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	2-1	2-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	23:01	36:59

## FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Green Bay Packers

				Net	Long		
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain			
Davis .....	12	15	1.3	6			
Carruth .....	2	1	.5	1			
Ellis .....	4	43	10.8	24			
Ellerson .....	7	30	4.3	13			
				Tkd.	Had		
PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
Wright .....	29	10	148	5-59	1	46	2
Fusina .....	0	0	0	1-3	0	0	0
				No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Epps .....				2	19	13	0
Lofton .....				3	26	16	0
West .....				5	103	46	1
				No.	Yds.		
INTERCEPTIONS				No.	Yds.		
Lee .....				2	0		
Greene .....				1	0		
				No.	Yds.	LG	
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	LG		
Bracken .....	7	267	38.1	1	55		
*Blocked .....	1	0	0	0	0		
				No.	FC	Yds.	LG
PUNT RETURNS				No.	FC	Yds.	LG
Stanley .....				13	2	1	1
*Downed .....				1	0	0	0
Blocked .....				1	0	0	0
Out of Bounds .....				1	0	0	0
				No.	Yds.	LG	
KICKOFF RETURNS				No.	Yds.	LG	
Stanley .....				1	9	9	
Watts .....				1	40	40	
Davis .....				1	21	21	
				Fum.	Opp.		
FUMBLES				Fum.	Rec.		
Dorsey .....				0	1		
Scott .....				0	1		
Ellerson .....				1	0		



Green Bay quarterback Randy Wright was sacked five times in Sunday's game and is under pressure here from Chicago's Wilber Marshall. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

## Chicago Bears

		Net		Long			
RUSHING		Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain		
Payton	17	85	5.0	15			
McMahon	6	64	10.7	23			
Suhey	6	21	3.5	5			
Perry	1	-1	-1.0	-1			
Thomas	6	30	5.0	8			
Tomczak	2	-1	-5	-1			
				Had			
PASSING		Att.	Comp.	Yds.	LG	Int.	
McMahon	32	12	95	41	3		
Tomczak	6	3	7	4	0		
PASS RECEIVING				No.	Yds.	LG	
Suhey				3	18	11	
Gentry				3	59	41	
Thomas				2	-7	-5	
Moorehead				1	2	2	
Gault				2	22	11	
Payton				1	-2	-2	
Wrightman				3	10	6	
INTERCEPTION				No.	Yds.	LG	
Richardson				1	3	3	
Marshall				1	0	0	
PUNTING				No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG
Buford				5	169	33.8	53
*Blocked				1	0	0	0
PUNT RETURNS				No.	Yds.	LG	
Barnes				5	32	17	
*Touchback				1	0	0	
*Out of Bounds				1	0	0	
*Blocked				1	0	0	
KICKOFF RETURNS				No.	Yds.	LG	
Gentry				4	70	27	

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)	Packers	T	A	Int.	PD	FR	BP
Lee	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
Greene	5	1	1	1	0	0	1
Cade	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
Watts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stills	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Greenwood	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Leopold	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	6	3	0	1	1	0	0
Carreker	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humphrey	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noble	12	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	4	3	0	1	0	0	0
Martin	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorsey	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Carruth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Carruth, Brown, Scott.

Continued Page 18

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# Television makes public more aware of injuries

If injuries haven't increased in the National Football League this year, awareness of injuries has.

Statistics show no dramatic increase in injury numbers or severity this year, but the numbers remain consistently high. Football is a dangerous sport and always will be a dangerous sport.

There are ways to reduce injuries. The use of the knee brace is more common than ever among pros and collegians. Somebody must think it works.



By  
Don  
Pierson

Public awareness of injury comes from television. Last year, the broken leg suffered by Washington quarterback Joe Theismann was one of the most gruesome sights ever replayed for a national TV audience. Theismann himself couldn't stand to look at it.

It was not the first broken leg ever suffered, however, and it won't be the last.

This year, Monday night football has televised two scary episodes involving neck injuries.

Green Bay's Tim Lewis had his career ended when he collided with Bears receiver Willie Gault. Although Lewis suffered no permanent damage, he was advised to give up the sport.

San Francisco receiver Mike Wilson laid on the field for 10 minutes after he suffered a neck injury in a game against Washington. He was walking around during the second half, but not until he had frightened viewers and prompted commentator Frank Gifford into a monologue

on football health and safety.

Artificial turf has been blamed for injury after much debate and a few inspired surveys. Turf had nothing to do with the neck injuries, but that is beside the point. Why anyone needs to be convinced that it is more dangerous to play on fuzzy cement than on grass is another matter for debate. The facts seem indisputable.

## Injury problem involves conscience

The real debate is over what is being done to minimize injuries. The answer is not enough. Part of the reason involves conscience.

The NFL Players Association always talks about improving safety, but the subject of artificial turf is always thrown out the window at the first mention of more money.

Nothing ever will be done about getting rid of artificial turf if money becomes the main issue.

Likewise, nothing much will be done about minimizing injuries in general if cold statistics are the only guideline for action.

For example, an owner with no conscience could argue that injuries are cost efficient because they hurry the rate of attrition and keep rosters young (and therefore salaries low).

The use of anabolic steroids by players is another contributing factor to injuries, according to some experts.

In a *Sports Illustrated* article, Indianapolis linebacker Johnnie Cooks called steroids the "worst problem in the NFL." Los Angeles Raider defensive end Howie Long estimated 50 percent of big men take steroids.

Steroids are drugs that help build muscle mass and enable players to get bigger and stronger. The only league rule involving their use is that they have to be prescribed by a doctor.

Some players say they contribute to injury. Despite their strength-building characteristics, they always leave some parts of the body weak. And, collisions involving artificially-bulked up players naturally produce more chance for injury.

Bears tackle Jimbo Covert and Atlanta Falcons guard Bill Fralic both say they experimented with steroids for a brief time while they were at the University of Pittsburgh.

Both quit and have said they won't take them as pros. They are both good examples of how players still can get to the top of their profession without help from artificial means.

Continued Next Page



Richard Dent throws a flag back at the official after he's called for a late hit in Sunday's game against Green Bay. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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# Pierson

Continued From Page 5

## Some quit steroids because it's wrong

Their reason for turning their large backs on steroids is most interesting. Neither was particularly frightened for themselves nor convinced steroids use is causing injury and creating havoc around the league.

Fralic was concerned enough to call commissioner Pete Rozelle and tell him he thought steroids were more prevalent than cocaine. But Fralic's reason for quitting was simple: he thought it was wrong.

"It bothered my conscience," Fralic said. "After I tried it, I just quit. I didn't experience any bad side effects or anything. They made me bigger and stronger. After I quit taking them, I lost the things I had gained from them."

"I just think I saw the right side of the issue. I thought I could do the job the way I am. I could do it better if I did (take steroids), but if that's what it takes I'm not willing

to cheat to do that."

Likewise, Covert said he took them for a year at Pitt and quit because he didn't know what he was doing and probably wasn't getting the full effects from them.

"Kids are the ones who are suffering," Covert said. "When they see a player or a successful athlete and they hear through the grapevine that a guy takes steroids, they think the only way they can get there is by doing that. That's bad. You can get there by just being a hard-working person and by sacrificing."

"There is no easy way to get there no matter what you do. I saw a survey someplace that asked: 'If you could take a pill and be at the top of your profession and in five years be dead, would you take it?' Something like 95 percent said they would!"

Covert pointed out that steroids are not just a problem in pro football, but in many sports internationally.

It will take more than statistics, surveys, or rules to limit the use of steroids or minimize injuries. It will take conscience.



Dave Duerson closes in on the Packers' Gary Ellerson Sunday to record one of his team-high eight tackles. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

## 11-game totals

# Bears Defensive Stats

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	PD's	FR's	FC	BL	Sacks/Yds
Mike Singletary	92	56	36	6	0	0	0	2 / -18
Gary Fencik	95	47	48	8	1	1	0	0 / 0
Wilber Marshall	73	45	28	4	2	2	0	1.5 / -15
Dave Duerson	72	38	34	10	1	0	0	5 / 43
Otis Wilson	79	39	40	4	0	1	0	6 / 42
Steve McMichael	68	29	39	2	0	1	0	6.5 / 46
William Perry	57	32	25	1	0	1	0	4 / 33
Mike Richardson	47	32	15	16	0	1	0	0 / 0
Reggie Phillips	31	16	15	9	0	1	0	0 / 0
Dan Hampton	46	18	28	1	2	0	1	5.5 / 47
Richard Dent	55	22	33	2	0	4	0	6.5 / 52
Vestee Jackson	15	9	6	2	0	0	0	0 / 0
Todd Bell	5	3	2	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Shaun Gayle	9	8	1	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Mike Hartenstein	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	1 / -5
Henry Waechter	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Al Harris	7	4	3	1	0	0	0	2 / 21
Ron Rivera	31	23	8	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Jim Morrissey	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Dan Rains	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0

SPECIAL TEAM TACKLES			T	Solo	Asst.
Thomas Sanders	11	8	3	4	0
Jim Morrissey	10	8	2	2	0
Dan Rains	10	7	3	7	2
Ron Rivera	3	2	1	1	0
Shaun Gayle	6	3	3	0	1
Dave Duerson	3	2	1	0	1
Calvin Thomas	4	2	3	0	2
Al Harris	1	0	1	1	0
Todd Bell	4	4	0		
Keith Ortego	2	2	0		
N. Anderson	9	7	2		
K. Butler	1	1	0		
V. Jackson	1	0	1		
L. Rubens	1	0	1		
E. Moorehead	2	0	2		
R. Phillips	1	1	0		

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# McMahon returns to the starting lineup

Bears coach Mike Ditka originally said he would have to see quarterback Jim McMahon throw Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before he would say McMahon would start against the Packers last Sunday.

Evidently Ditka was so impressed by McMahon's throwing on Wednesday that he didn't have to wait until Friday to make a decision. He announced after Wednesday's practice that McMahon would start at quarterback against Green Bay.

McMahon threw about 75 passes during Wednesday's practice, and Ditka liked what he saw.



## Bear Notebook

"Jimmy threw very well and he's ready to play," Ditka said. "He threw a lot more than I thought he was going to throw. He went right through all the drills and even the individual passes he threw."

McMahon threw mainly short and medium range passes on Wednesday and threw them hard.

"He didn't throw every pass perfect, but nobody does that," Ditka said. "He had good zip on the ball."

"I threw all right. It was pretty good for the first time back," McMahon said. "I don't have a whole lot of freedom in the shoulder joint itself. I don't think it'll be 100 percent until I get it fixed. But it's good enough to play."

McMahon said he will undergo arthroscopic surgery after the season to make more room between the bones in the joint. "I want to get it taken care of so I don't have this problem year after year," he said.

McMahon said he didn't throw exactly the way he normally does, but threw three-quarters instead. "I'll probably throw three-quarters more than I've ever thrown before," he said. "If I start dropping way down and start throwing sidearm, then I'll screw it up."

Though Ditka said McMahon is throwing without pain, he admitted only McMahon knows that for sure. "I can't even tell when Diana (his wife) has a headache anymore," he said. "The soreness won't be in the shoulder, it'll be in the arm." Ditka said the soreness shouldn't be a problem and that it can be rubbed out easily enough.

"He's been out for a long time and he wants to get back in there. He'll work it out all right," Ditka said.

Despite McMahon missing six of the first 11 games this season, Ditka wasn't worried about McMahon being rusty against Green Bay.

"I'm not concerned and I know he isn't. That would be looking at the negative side of it," Ditka said.

McMahon took the majority of the offensive snaps last week, with Mike Tomczak taking the rest. Steve Fuller and Doug Flutie worked the scout team against the defense.

McMahon also wore gloves during part of the practice on Wednesday when it got colder out.

The Bears have now won the last 23 games in which McMahon has started, the longest such streak in the NFL.

But Ditka said McMahon's return doesn't seem to have affected the team greatly. "I think everyone's just glad to see him back," he said. "I didn't notice any difference."

● **IT'S CRUNCH TIME** in the NFL. The Bears have just eight games left in the season if they make it all the way to the Super Bowl, and Ditka said players should have no problem getting ready for them.

"Eight games, that's all it is. If teams don't realize that the worst is behind them, then they're foolish because eight games is nothing," he said. "Time flies when you're in this business."

Going into those final eight games Ditka sees his team in good shape, with the offense on the verge of turning things loose.

"We're within a hair of putting up some points and putting on some offensive shows," he said. "We make mistakes, but we don't make as many mistakes as some other teams."

"The only thing I don't want to do is start comparing us to other teams. What I'm trying to do is compare us to how good we can be. Maybe that's too idealistic, to make all the blocks and execute all the plays. But we did a lot of things very well the last couple of weeks."

"Defensively I'm just pleased the way they're working."

● **TO MATCH UP** better with the Packers' speed, Ditka said before the game that he may make some personnel changes in the nickel defense.

Those changes included taking Gary Fencik out of the nickel defense and putting Shaun Gayle at free safety. But

Fencik is actually being replaced in the defense by Todd Bell, who has played in the nickel at linebacker in place of Mike Singletary while he was injured.

But now with Singletary fully healthy again the Bears didn't want to keep Bell out of the defense. So Bell played at strong safety and Dave Duerson played the nickel back.

● **WHEN ASKED TO NAME** the most improved Bears this season Ditka included Keith Ortego, Dennis Gentry, Thomas Sanders and Mike Richardson.

● **COLD WEATHER IS** becoming a concern for the Bears as the playoffs approach and they're beginning to consider sites at which to practice during the playoffs.

The Bears have used the Falcons' practice facility the last two years to prepare for the playoffs. But with the Falcons still a possibility to make the playoffs Chicago may have to find another site.

Alternate sites the Bears are considering include the University of Illinois, Wake Forest University and Tampa.

Currently the Bears are keeping a tarp over their practice field at Lake Forest to keep it soft and dry. But that

probably won't work for the remainder of the season.

"We're gonna get a couple more weeks out of the field," Ditka said. "It's got a couple wet spots but I think it's gonna help us."

● **WILLIAM PERRY'S WEIGHT** and quickness have improved, so Ditka has reinstated him in the Bears' offense.

Perry was in the backfield on one play against Atlanta in which he was used as a decoy.

Before the Packer game Ditka said he intended on using Perry again in the backfield.

"What the heck, this is where he was born," Ditka said, referring to the Monday night game last year against the Packers at Soldier Field in which Perry made his big splash in the backfield.

"Why not give him a shot at them. Of course, we haven't been down to the goal line in so long, they won't know what we're doing there anyway."

● **AFTER THE LAST** couple of games Ditka has talked about the lack of execution in the Bears' offense. Last

Continued Page 13

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## Pittsburgh Steelers Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
1	Gary Anderson	PK	5-11	170	27	5	Syracuse
6	Bubby Brister	QB	6-2	184	24	R	NE Louisiana
16	Mark Malone	QB	6-4	220	27	7	Arizona St.
18	Harry Newsome	P	6-0	186	23	2	Wake Forest
21	Eric Williams	FS	6-1	190	26	4	N. Carolina St.
22	Rick Woods	FS/CB	6-0	195	27	5	Boise St.
24	Rich Erenberg	RB	5-10	205	24	3	Colgate
26	John Swain	CB	6-1	192	27	6	Miami (Fla.)
28	Lupe Sanchez	CB/KR	5-10	197	25	1	UCLA
31	Donnie Shell	SS	5-11	198	34	13	S. Carolina St.
33	Harvey Clayton	CB	5-9	180	25	4	Florida St.
34	Walter Abercrombie	RB	6-0	210	27	5	Baylor
37	Donnie Elder	CB/KR	5-9	175	23	2	Memphis St.
40	Dan Reeder	RB	5-11	235	25	1	Delaware
42	Dave Edwards	SS	6-0	195	24	2	Illinois
43	Earnest Jackson	RB	5-9	202	26	4	Texas A&M
45	Chuck Sanders	RB	6-1	233	22	R	Slippery Rock
50	David Little	LB	6-1	238	27	6	Florida
51	Dan Turk	C	6-4	265	24	1	Wisconsin
52	Mike Webster	C	6-1	260	34	13	Wisconsin
53	Bryan Hinkle	LB	6-2	220	27	5	Oregon
55	Dennis Winston	LB	6-0	224	31	10	Arkansas
56	Robin Cole	LB	6-2	225	31	10	New Mexico
57	Mike Merriweather	LB	6-2	215	25	5	Pacific
62	Tunch Ilkin	OT	6-3	265	29	7	Indiana St.
63	Pete Rostovsky	OT	6-4	270	25	3	Connecticut
64	Edmund Nelson	DE/DT	6-3	277	26	5	Auburn
65	Ray Pinney	OT	6-4	265	32	8	Washington
66	Mark Behning	OT	6-6	290	25	1	Nebraska
67	Gary Dunn	NT	6-3	275	33	10	Miami (Fla.)
73	Craig Wolfley	G	6-1	260	28	7	Syracuse
74	Terry Long	G	5-11	265	27	8	East Carolina
80	Warren Seitz	TE	6-4	223	24	R	Missouri
82	John Stallworth	WR	6-2	202	34	13	Alabama A&M
83	Louis Lipps	WR/KR	5-10	185	24	3	S. Mississippi
85	Calvin Sweeney	WR	6-2	192	31	7	Southern Cal
86	Preston Gothard	TE	6-4	240	24	2	Alabama
87	Weegie Thompson	WR	6-6	210	25	3	Florida St.
90	Larry Station	LB	5-11	227	22	R	Iowa
91	Gregg Carr	LB	6-1	220	24	2	Auburn
92	Keith Gary	DE	6-3	265	27	4	Oklahoma
93	Keith Willis	DE	6-1	255	27	5	Northeastern
96	Anthony Henton	LB	6-1	218	23	R	Troy St.
98	Gerald Williams	NT	6-3	270	23	R	Auburn
99	Darryl Sims	DE/DT	6-3	275	25	2	Wisconsin

### INJURED RESERVE

RB David Hughes, RB Frank Pollard, G John Rienstra, CB Chris Sheffield, C/G Randy Rasmussen, WR Jessie Britt

HEAD COACH: Chuck Noll

ASSISTANT COACHES: Ron Blackledge, Tony Dungy, Dennis Fitzgerald, Dick Hoak, Jed Hughes, Hal Hunter, Jon Kolb and Tom Moore



HEAD COACH CHUCK NOLL

## Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Doug Flutie	QB	5-9	176	24	R	Boston College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Bulford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
54	Brian Cabral	LB	6-1	232	30	7	Colorado
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstine	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horn	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	190	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

Injured Reserve — OT Andy Frederick, RB Calvin Murray, TE Riley Walton, OG Stefan Humphries, LB Dan Rains.

Physically Unable to Perform — WR Dennis McKinnon, CB Leslie Frazier.

Non-Football Injury — WR Glenn Kozlowski.

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazar, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Lepra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.

### Special to the Bear Report

In the good old days, the Pittsburgh Steelers would be fine-tuning their playoff machine at this time of the season. But for the second consecutive campaign, the four-time Super Bowl champions are starting to say, "Wait until next year."

Any hopes of a Steeler appearance in the playoffs this winter went down the drain at Cleveland Stadium last Sunday. In overtime, Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar connected with Webster Slaughter on a 37-yard touchdown pass for a 37-31 Browns victory. The loss dropped the Steelers' record to 4-8. They trail the front-running Browns and Bengals by four games.

"We're going to play out this season and see how we do. We're going to see how people play when the going gets tough, and the going is tough right now," says head coach Chuck Noll.

Even though the Steelers will probably finish under .500 for the second consecutive year (they were 7-9 last season), Noll's job appears safe.

"I have never worried about my coaching career, and I'm not going to now," Noll says.

Steeler management isn't about to run Noll out of town.

"I don't think it's necessary to ever give Chuck Noll a vote of confidence," says Steeler president Dan Rooney. "He's the type of guy who does his job and fits well here."

### Steelers have no leadership

Many critics of the club have pointed to a lack of leader-

ship on the playing field.

"You have a real leadership problem," says former Steeler standout Rocky Bleier. "I don't know whether you've got anybody that you'd listen to on this team. Who's going to take you aside? You might listen to (center) Mike Webster, but he's not that type."

Since Terry Bradshaw retired a few years back, the Steelers haven't gotten any leadership out of the quarterback position. They also haven't gotten many good performances from their signal-callers. Through 11 games, starter Mark Malone ranked near the bottom of the AFC passing charts. Only Indianapolis rookie Jack Trudeau (55.1) had a worse rating than Malone (60.1). The seven-year veteran out of Arizona State had completed only 49 percent of his passes and had been intercepted 11 times.

Yet Malone has been improving since the beginning of this season. In the first four games of '86, Malone's pass rating was 31.6. He missed two games due to a thumb injury but returned to the lineup and played like a new man. He had a streak of 105 passes without an interception in late October and early November.

"I had to withdraw myself from the situation and say, 'OK, play some smart football. Be more concerned about what the defense gives you, make your reads and get it to the open guy, regardless of whether it's four yards or 40 yards,'" Malone says. "(Before), we'd go a couple of series where we didn't score and I'd go, 'I've got to make it happen myself.' You get into situations of forcing the

ball."

Noll is sticking with Malone through thick and thin.

"Mark is a quarterback we can win with. When your supporting cast does well, you're going to do well," Noll said.

### Receivers haven't been a factor

Through 11 weeks, the Steelers ranked dead last in AFC offense. They were 3rd rushing and 14th passing. A glance at the receiving statistics tells the sad story. Wide-outs John Stallworth (17 for 193) and Louis Lipps (16 for 216) have been non-factors all season long. Running back Walter Abercrombie (26 for 199) is the team's leading receiver. He also leads the team in rushing (141 for 563). Former Charger and Eagle Earnest Jackson is also doing a good job in the rushing department (119 for 478).

Earlier this season, Jackson was run out of Philadelphia by new head coach Buddy Ryan. He has started nine consecutive games since joining the Steelers.

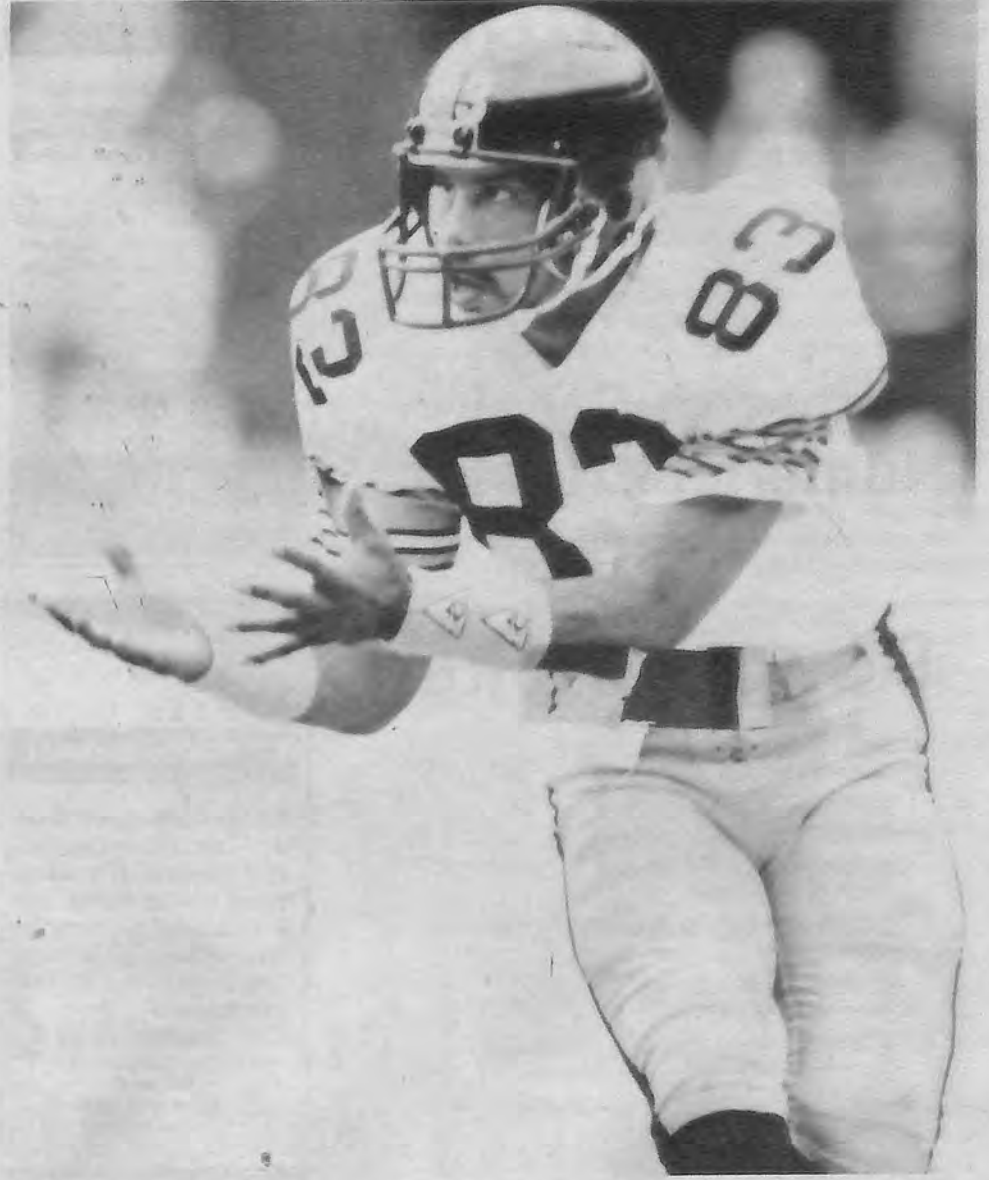
"The thing that pulls at him is people say he can't block and he blocks," says Noll. "He's had some key ones for us."

Defensively, the Steelers ranked a respectable 6th in the AFC after 11 games. They were 6th against the pass and 9th against the rush. The Steelers have been allowing 317 yards per game. The defense has recorded 33 sacks and 21 turnovers.





WIDE RECEIVER JOHN STALLWORTH



WIDE RECEIVER LOUIS LIPPS

## Lineups

### Pittsburgh Chicago

#### Offense

WR 85 Calvin Sweeney, 82 John Stallworth  
 LT 65 Ray Pinney, 63 Pete Rostovsky  
 LG 73 Craig Wolfley, 63 Pete Rostovsky  
 C 52 Mike Webster, 51 Dan Turk  
 RG 74 Terry Long, 51 Dan Turk  
 RT 62 Tunch Ilkin, 66 Mark Behning  
 TE 86 Preston Gothard, 80 Warren Seitz  
 WR 87 Weegie Thompson, 83 Louis Lipps  
 QB 16 Mark Malone, 6 Bubby Brister  
 RB 34 Walter Abercrombie, 24 Rich Erenberg  
 FB 43 Earnest Jackson, 40 Dan Reeder

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego  
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair  
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker  
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens  
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker  
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair  
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman  
 WR 89 Keith Ortego, 29 Dennis Gentry  
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders  
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas  
 QB 9 Jim McMahon, 18 Mike Tomczak

#### Defense

LE 93 Keith Willis, 64 Edmund Nelson  
 NT 67 Gary Dunn, 98 Gerald Williams  
 RE 64 Edmund Nelson, 92 Keith Gary  
 LOLB 57 Mike Merriweather, 96 Anthony Henton  
 LILB 50 David Little, 55 Dennis Winston  
 RILB 56 Robin Cole, 91 Gregg Carr  
 ROLB 53 Bryan Hinkle, 96 Anthony Henton  
 LCB 26 John Swain, 28 Lupe Sanchez  
 RCB 33 Harvey Clayton, 28 Lupe Sanchez  
 SS 31 Donnie Shell, 42 Dave Edwards  
 FS 21 Eric Williams, 22 Rick Woods

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine  
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter  
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter  
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 73 Mike Hartenstine  
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera  
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera  
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris  
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson  
 RC 24 Vestee Jackson, 48 Reggie Phillips  
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell  
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

#### Specialists

P 18 Harry Newsome  
 PC 51 Dan Turk, 52 Mike Webster  
 PK 1 Gary Anderson  
 KC 51 Dan Turk, 52 Mike Webster  
 H 18 Harry Newsome, 6 Bubby Brister  
 PR 22 Rick Woods, 28 Lupe Sanchez  
 KOR 28 Lupe Sanchez, 37 Donnie Elder

PK 6 Kevin Butler  
 P 8 Maury Buford  
 PR 81 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego  
 KR 29 Dennis Gentry, 20 Thomas Sanders  
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens  
 PC 52 Larry Rubens, 63 Jay Hilgenberg  
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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# Steelers

Continued From Page 8

Outside linebacker Bryan Hinkle has been having an outstanding year. He leads the team in tackles with 75 and also has recorded 3½ sacks and an interception. Other defensive leaders include linebacker David Little (62 tackles) and Mike Merriweather (59 tackles, 4 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, 1 interception) defensive end Keith Willis (9½ sacks) and cornerback Harvey Clayton (3 interceptions).

Special teams have been a disaster for the Steelers. They have allowed a 100-yard kickoff return and a 61-yard touchdown run by a punter. Placekicker Gary Anderson connected on 12 of 17 field goal attempts through 11 games. Punter Harry Newsome, who has had two attempts blocked, ranks 8th in the AFC with a 40.5 average. Kick returner Donnie Elder ranks 10th with a 20.2 average, while Rick Woods is 7th in the conference with a 9.0 average on punt returns.

"I'm sure this season is going to be an emotional scar on everybody," Noll said.

## Doug's Picks

**BEARS** by 10 over **STEELERS**  
*No problem for Chicago*

**LIONS** by 10 over **PACKERS**  
*Detroit will feast*

**COWBOYS** by EIGHT over **SEAHAWKS**  
*Seattle 0-3 against Dallas*

**DOLPHINS** by FOUR over **FALCONS**  
*Atlanta is sliding*

**CHIEFS** by FOUR over **BILLS**  
*Home-field advantage for KC*

**BRONCOS** by NINE over **BENGALS**  
*Denver will bounce back*

**BROWNS** by EIGHT over **OILERS**  
*Houston having problems*

**JETS** by SIX over **RAMS**  
*New York is for real*

**SAINTS** by ONE over **PATRIOTS**  
*Upset for the week*

**RAIDERS** by SEVEN over **EAGLES**  
*Philadelphia doesn't show much*

**CHARGERS** by TWO over **COLTS**  
*Indy can't beat anyone*

**VIKINGS** by 10 over **BUCCANEERS**  
*Easy one for Minnesota*

**REDSKINS** by SIX over **CARDINALS**  
*St. Louis could toy with them*

**GIANTS** by THREE over **49ERS**  
*New York keeps rolling*

## Radio, TV Coverage

Bear fans can listen to Bear talk shows on Chicago radio stations every Monday night.

At 7:05 p.m. on Mondays, WGN (720 AM) broadcasts "The Mike Ditka Show." The only exception is on Dec. 14 when the show is broadcast at 8:05 p.m.

Also on Monday mornings at 7:20 a.m. on WGN, Ditka talks with Bob Collins.

"Bear Talk" with Rich King is broadcast on WBBM (780 AM) Mondays at 7 p.m.

On television Chicago's game against Pittsburgh Sunday will be shown live at noon by NBC on channel 5 in the Chicago area. WGN also will carry the game live on radio over the Bears Radio Network.

## Bears' Schedule

### REGULAR SEASON

**BEARS** 41, Cleveland 31

**BEARS** 13, Philadelphia 10 OT

**BEARS** 25, Green Bay 12

**BEARS** 44, Cincinnati 7

**BEARS** 23, Minnesota 0

**BEARS** 20, Houston 7

**Minnesota** 23, **BEARS** 7

**BEARS** 13, Detroit 7

Los Angeles Rams 20, **BEARS** 17

**BEARS** 23, Tampa Bay 3

**BEARS** 13, Atlanta 10

**BEARS** 12, Green Bay 10

Sun., Nov. 30 ..... **PITTSBURGH STEELERS**, Noon

Sun., Dec. 7 ..... **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**, Noon

Mon., Dec. 15 ..... at **Detroit Lions**, 8 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 21 ..... at **Dallas Cowboys**, 3 p.m.

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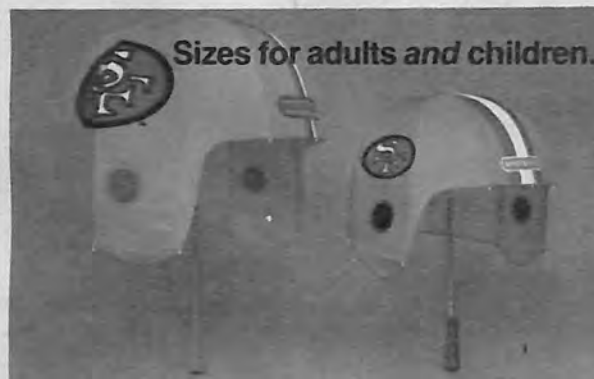
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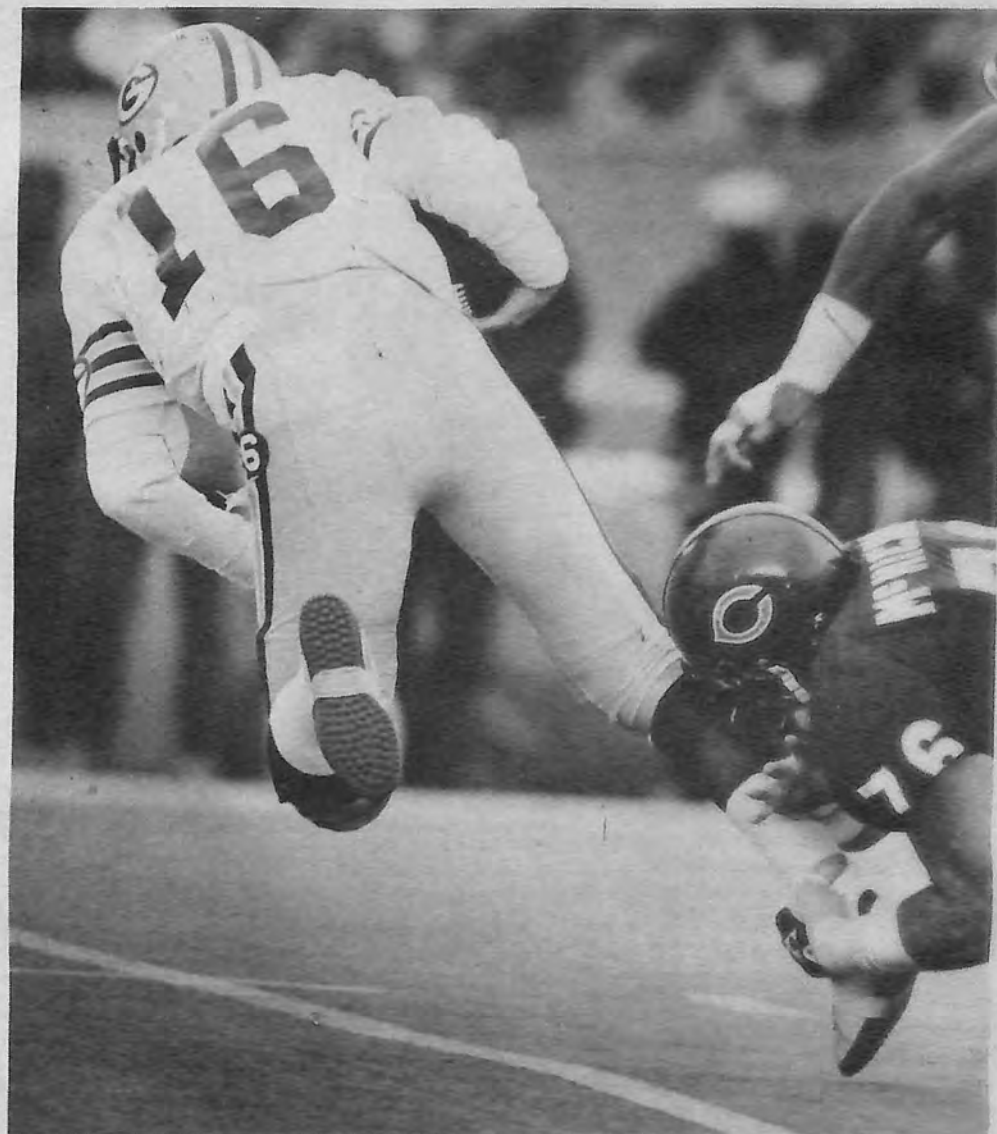
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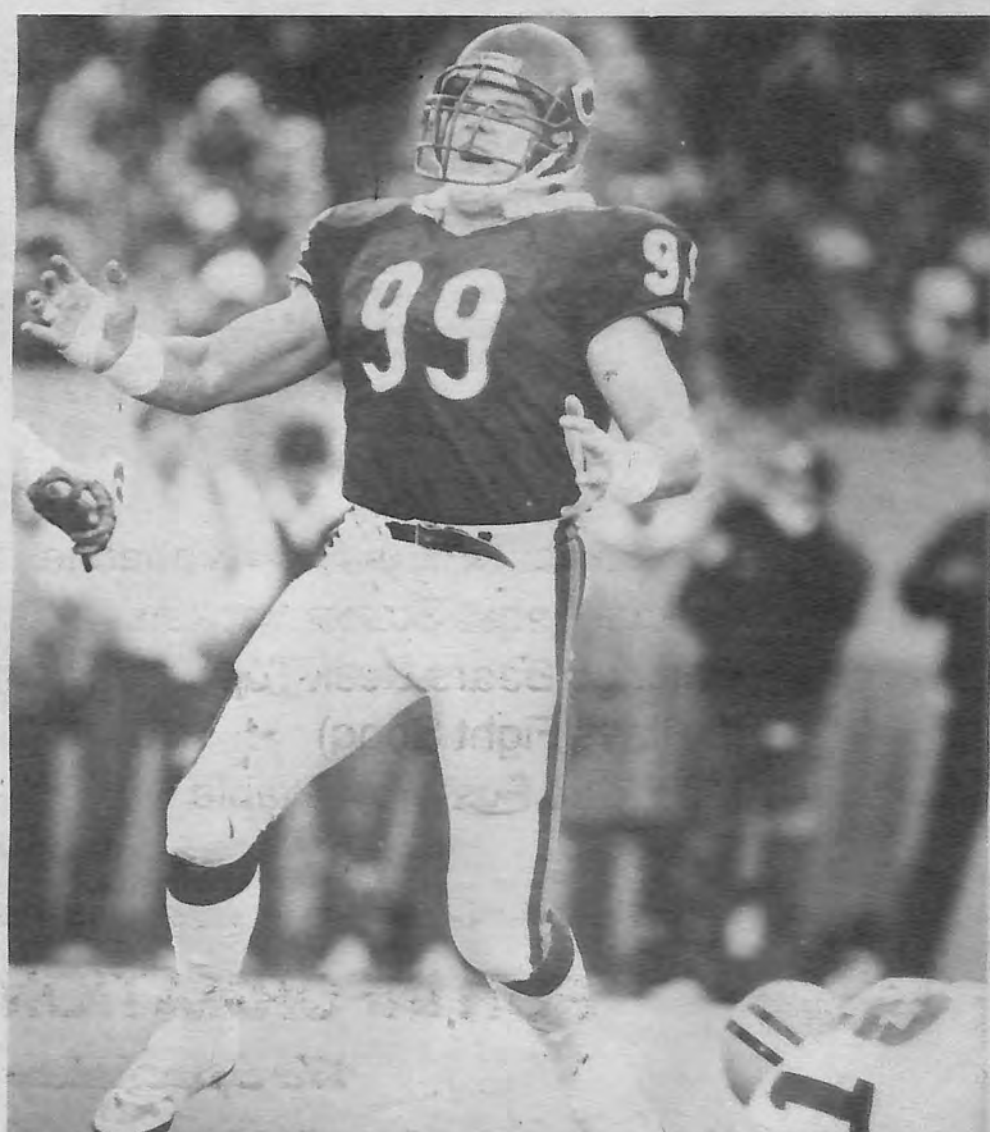
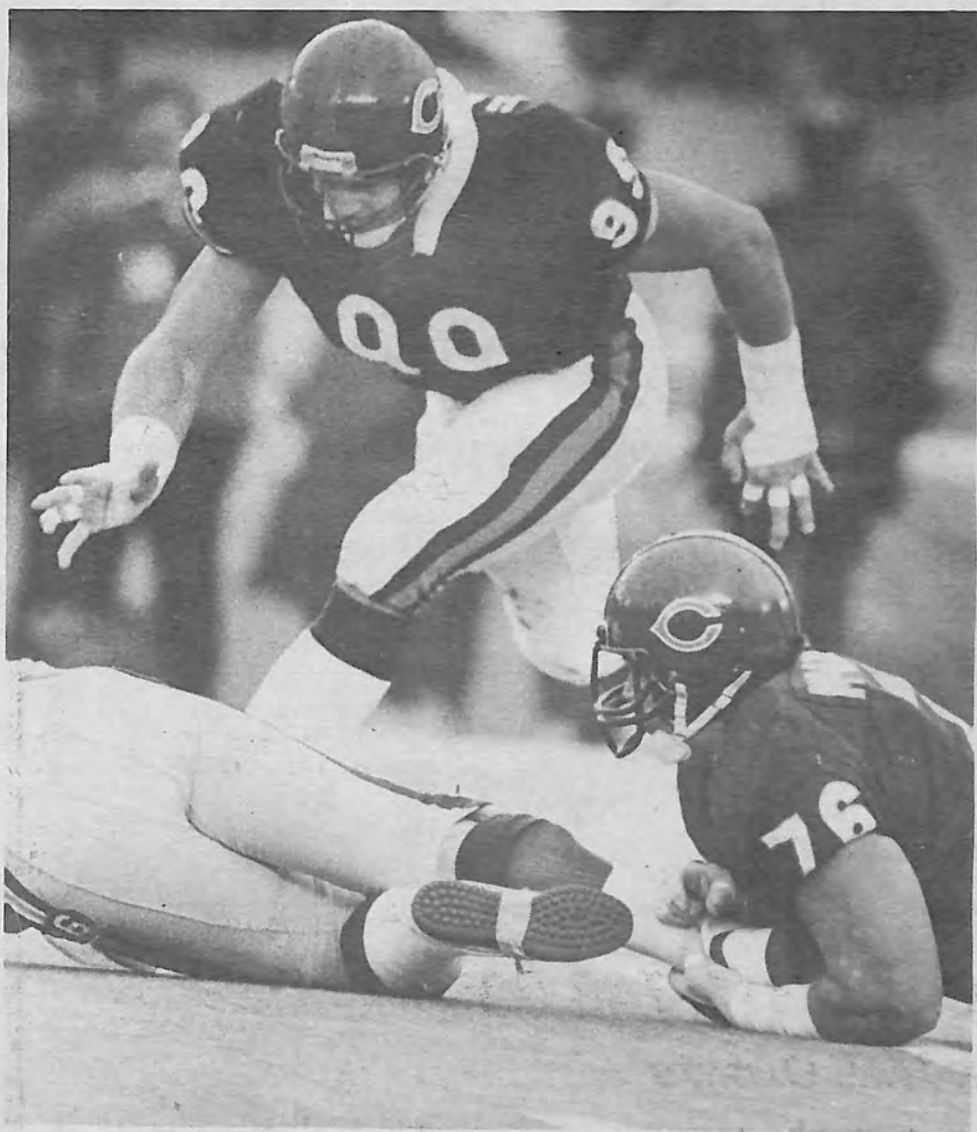


## Hampton leads sack attack



Dan Hampton puts the pressure on Packer quarterback Randy Wright in the third quarter of Sunday's game...

Steve McMichael joins in and catches Wright's foot...



as Hampton comes up to make sure Wright is down...

and celebrates one of his three and a half sacks Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



# Notebook

Continued From Page 7

week he said he was mainly talking about the passing game.

"Execution we're missing now is a matter of throwing the ball from point A to point B," he said. "And we just have to get better at it. The blocking I'm pretty pleased with overall. You can't block them all on every play so I'm not gonna worry about that."

"I'm just talking about when you have people open, get the ball to them. That's what has hurt us in the last three games from scoring some points."

•**THE ONLY SERIOUS INJURY** last week was a sprained ankle suffered by Mark Bortz in the Falcons' game. Bortz didn't practice on Wednesday but was working better by Thursday.

Bortz was able to start in the Packer game, with Kurt Becker substituting for him a little more than usual.

And that's one thing Ditka wants to do more of. He plans on shuffling players in at several positions, including wide receiver (Ortego and Gentry), tight end (Emery Moorehead and Tim Wrightman) and guard (Bortz and Becker).

"It doesn't hurt, that's for sure," Ditka said. "I want to have the guys in the game. I think it's important to put people in the game. They have to feel that they belong, they can contribute and they're part of the team."

"It's another way of saying I treat you like a starter. To me they are. We have a lot of starters. We can't do it at every position, but the ones we can where we're basically equal in talent, we'll do it and we should keep doing it that way."

**GAME NOTES:** The Green Bay game was the 21st straight sellout at Soldier Field. . . . The Bears and Packers have met 133 times with the Bears leading 72-55-6. The teams first played in 1921 and have met at least once annually since 1923 with the exception of the strike-shortened 1982 season. The Bears are 10-5 against the Packers at Soldier Field and have won 10 of the last 12 meetings there. . . . Ditka is now 50-24 overall since joining the Bears in 1982. He is 24-9 against the NFC Central and 6-2 against the Packers. . . . Walter Payton has rushed for over 100 yards in 13 of his 21 games against Green Bay, not including Sunday.



Jim McMahon didn't always find receivers open Sunday against Green Bay, so he ran six times for 64 yards in the game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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## 11-game totals

## Bears Season Statistics

WON 9, LOST 2 (OVERTIME)		
Sept 7 W 41-31 Cleveland	66,030	
Sept 14 AW 13-10 Philadelphia	65,130	
Sept 22 W 25-12 at Green Bay	55,527	
Sept 28 W 44-7 at Cincinnati	55,146	
Oct 5 W 23-0 Minnesota	63,921	
Oct 12 W 20-7 at Houston	46,026	
Oct 19 L 7-23 at Minnesota	62,851	
Oct 26 W 13-7 Detroit	62,064	
Nov 3 L 17-20 Rams	64,877	
Nov 9 W 23-3 at Tampa Bay	70,097	
Nov 16 W 13-10 at Atlanta	55,520	
Nov 23 Green Bay		
Nov 30 Pittsburgh		
Dec 7 Tampa Bay		
Dec 15 at Detroit		
Dec 21 at Dallas		

	Bears	Opponents
<b>TOTAL FIRST DOWNS</b>	207	169
Rushing	109	53
Passing	82	102
Penalty	16	14
3rd Down: Made/Att	49/138	60/162
4th Down: Made/Att	3/7	7/15
<b>TOTAL NET YARDS</b>	3726	2953
Avg. Per Game	338.7	268.5
Total Plays	698	699
Avg. Per Play	5.3	4.2
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	1764	1026
Avg. Per Game	160.4	93.3
Total Rushes	399	299
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	1962	1927
Avg. Per Game	178.4	175.2
Tackled/Yards Lost	18/123	39/311
Gross Yards	2085	2238
Att./Completions	281/143	361/173
Completion Pct.	50.9	47.9

Had Intercepted	15	21
PUNTS/AVERAGE	49/ 41.2	66/ 40.8
NET PUNTING AVG.	37.2	34.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	71/ 559	79/ 593
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	21/11	17/ 8
<b>TOUCHDOWNS</b>	25	14
Rushing	14	4
Passing	8	7
Returns	3	3

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	Total	
BEARS	69	39	65	63	3	239	
OPPONENTS	32	30	48	20	0	130	
SCORING	TD-Ru-Pa-Rt	PAT		FG	S	TP	
Butler	0	0	0	24/25	21/30	0	87
Payton	5	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	42
Sanders	4	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	24
Gault	0	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	18
Gentry	1	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	12
Marshall	0	0	2	0/0	0/0	0	12
Ortego	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Tomczak	2	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
McMahon	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Moorehead	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Suhey	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
McMichael	0	0	0	0/0	0/0	1	2

BEARS	14	8	3	24/25	21/30	1	239
OPPONENTS	4	7	3	13/14	11/15	0	130
<b>SACKS:</b>	McMichael 7.0, Dent 6.5, Duerson 6.0, Hampton 5.0, Wilson 5.0, Perry 4.0, Harris 2.0, Marshall 1.5, Hartenstine 1.0, Singletary 1.0, BEARS 39.0, OPPONENTS 18.0						

PASSING	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
McMahon	118	65	900	55.1	7.63	5	4.2	5	4.2	t58	6/ 40	76.2
Tomczak	96	44	734	45.8	7.65	1	1.0	6	6.3	85	4/ 30	49.6
Fuller	62	34	451	54.8	7.27	2	3.2	3	4.8	t50	8/ 53	68.7
Payton	4	0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0/ 0	0.0
Flutie	1	0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/ 0	39.6
BEARS	281	143	2085	50.9	7.42	8	2.8	15	5.3	85	18/ 123	52.7
OPPONENTS	361	173	2238	47.9	6.20	7	1.9	21	5.8	t65	39/ 311	50.1

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Payton	221	946	4.3	41	5
Sanders	18	171	9.5	t75	4
Suhey	55	158	2.9	10	1
Thomas	38	141	3.7	23	0
McMahon	16	88	5.5	21	1
Gault	7	68	9.7	33	0
Tomczak	12	65	5.4	14	2
Gentry	7	60	8.6	t21	1
Anderson	16	50	3.1	23	0
Fuller	7	31	4.4	10	0
Flutie	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Burford	1	-13	-13.0	-13	0
BEARS	399	1764	4.4	t75	14
OPPONENTS	299	1026	3.4	33	4
RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Gault	29	612	21.1	t53	3
Payton	25	225	9.0	57	2
Ortego	21	398	19.0	t58	2
Suhey	20	208	10.4	58	0
Moorehead	19	295	15.5	85	1
Wrightman	11	142	12.9	29	0
Gentry	9	101	11.2	37	0
Barnes	4	54	13.5	14	0
Thomas	2	25	12.5	18	0
Anderson	2	17	8.5	9	0
Bortz	1	8	8.0	8	0
BEARS	143	2085	14.6	85	8
OPPONENTS	173	2238	12.9	t65	7
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Duerson	6	139	23.2	38	0
Richardson	5	66	13.2	32	0
Marshall	3	67	22.3	t58	1
Fencik	2	34	17.0	24	0
Wilson	2	31	15.5	21	0
Jackson	2	0	0.0	0	0
Phillips	1	6	6.0	6	0

BEARS	21	343	16.3	t58	1		
OPPONENTS	15	78	5.2	18	1		
PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lq	FK
Burford	49	2021	41.2	6	16	59	0
BEARS	49	2021	41.2	6	16	59	0
OPPONENTS	66	2696	40.8	6	14	65	0
PUNT RETURNS	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	
Barnes	37	7	287	7.8	26	0	
BEARS	37	7	287	7.8	26	0	
OPPONENTS	13	11	78	6.0	15	0	
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
Sanders	19	341	17.9	44	0		
Gentry	12	399	33.3	t91	1		
Anderson	3	19	6.3	13	0		
Barnes	1	9	9.0	9	0		
Gault	1	20	20.0	20	0		
BEARS	36	788	21.9	t91	1		
OPPONENTS	43	920	21.4	55	0		
FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Butler	1/1	10/12	5/8	4/5	1/4		
Opponents	0/0	4/5	1/1	4/5	2/4		
Butler:	(54N, 50N, 47G, 19G) (38N, 46N, 23G, 37N, 55N, 23G) (34G, 52G, 27G) (41G) (24G, 42G, 32G) (31G, 27G) ( ) (29G, 27G) (30G) (25G, 23G, 22G) (32G, 44G, 28N, 25N, 35N)						
Opponents:	(22G) (49G) (22G, 46G, 45G, 50G, 52N) ( ) (48N) (54N) (29G) (28N) (26G, 50G) (42G) (37G)						

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Gary Fencik (left) and William Perry (right) are two of the many Bear players who have starred this year on the defensive unit. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



## Bears' defense proves its critics wrong

The swagger came back in Atlanta. That's all that was missing.

Statistically, the Bears' defense all season has been the equal of last year's bunch that gave ground as grudgingly as elbow-to-elbow security cops. It has been coolly efficient, but never chillingly brutal. It hadn't made first downs harder to come by than \$20 gold pieces. It hadn't stuffed and mounted any quarterbacks.

In Atlanta, the Bears knocked quarterback David Archer out of the game in the second quarter. "Nobody boot-legs on me twice," defensive end Richard Dent said as calmly as Clint Eastwood cocking his gun.

They allowed the Falcons two first downs in the second half. In the last 18:49, the Falcons didn't advance past their 35-yard line and even the Bears' offense had only one play in Bear territory. Their 13-10 lead was insurmountable.

It could have been bigger. Kevin Butler was spraying field-goal attempts like a clogged garden hose. Most defenses, that would have frustrated. It only egged the Bears on. They acted as though they would have given the Falcons two more points if they could, just to make it more sporting. Safety Dave Duerson said middle linebacker Mike Singletary actually smiled when Butler missed his last attempt, as though a six-point lead wouldn't have teased the Falcons enough.

"We raced on the field," Duerson said. "We wanted to be out there."

How else were they going to wear out the Falcons' offense? The way things were going, the teams could have played sudden death, just Atlanta's offense against the Bears' defense, and the Bears would have scored first. And the Bears knew it.

Through that 11th game, the defense had allowed 11 touchdowns. It had given up seven in the last nine games, two in the last four, none in the last two. It had allowed 109 points for the season, 11 fewer than a year ago.

### Tobin sacrifices some things

It wasn't playing with the old abandon of 1985, partly by design and mostly because it had to learn Vince Tobin's new system. Still, it was allowing a lower completion percentage, fewer yards and only three more first downs. Those were things Tobin's more conservative system was supposed to sacrifice in the name of safety.

Sacks were down, from 45 to 39, but that 13.4 percent drop was less than the drop leaguewide. Offenses weren't stupid. They were making sacks harder to come by.

They were throwing the ball more quickly. They were

leaving more blockers back. They were running more often.

"Offenses were sitting ducks last year," Singletary says. "They had to do something. They did something. They ran more. And when they passed, they started putting tight ends in the backfield and leaving extra guys back to block."

Against the Bears' defense, especially, teams have decided running in place is better than having no place to hide. Opponents have been banging their running backs' heads into the Bears' front wall 25 percent more often than they did a year ago. They don't have many more

By  
Kevin  
Lamb



yards to show for it, but that's not the idea. What they've done is keep that front wall from caving in on their quarterbacks.

"If they can establish the run, they take away our pass rush," linebacker Ron Rivera says. "I think that's what teams fear most about us. They don't want to let us turn on the blitz."

Tobin notices opponents doing two specific things differently. One is the willingness to run more. "We're seeing so many draws on first down, to get us out of our pass rush," Tobin says. "That's basically all the Rams did. They didn't run a lot of true running plays."

Even more dramatic is the type of pass routes teams have used. "They've blocked nine men a couple times, everyone but the quarterback and a receiver," coach Mike Ditka says.

Two receiver-routes, with eight blockers, have become almost commonplace.

"This is the first year I've seen that," says Gary Fencik, the Bears' 11th-year safety. "They keep everybody in and send their receivers deep."

"They figure if they just try to drop back and pass," says Ditka, "they're going to get their quarterback in trouble."

### Falcons' running game didn't work

The Falcons didn't worry about that. With the league's best running game, they decided they could stall off the Bears' pass rush with their normal offense.

They couldn't. They gave Tobin a chance to show he's willing to blitz if the offense is willing to dare him.

"I watched our blitzes during the week, and I couldn't have adjusted to them," Ditka said. "I don't know how the hell you pick them up. I don't even think they used all the ones they worked on."

It was Ditka, of course, who contended any good defensive coach could look great with the Bears' players. The players wondered. They thought Buddy Ryan's system had brought the best out in them. The recklessness of his style had put the starch in their swagger.

Now Tobin's system is showing there's more than one way to skin a quarterback.

Ryan used to make fun of cornerback Mike Richardson. He said he had to blitz because he didn't have corners who could cover anyone more than two seconds. Richardson covered the end zone like a fortress for the first 11 weeks. He gave up no touchdowns and grabbed five interceptions.

Duerson had six interceptions. He had five sacks. He had a ticket to the Pro Bowl all but assured. The same Duerson whom Ryan could hardly wait to bump from the lineup.

Otis Wilson wasn't blitzing so much anymore, but he was getting to the quarterback just as often. At the other outside linebacker spot, Wilber Marshall was looking like a one-man vigilante squad. Don't tell him about Tobin's cautious defense.

Perhaps the biggest difference was in the middle. Ryan used to say losing Singletary would be as costly as losing a quarterback. Tobin says he doesn't like to make any one player that essential to the defense. Rivera backed up his claim when the Bears won 13-7 and 23-3 when Singletary missed games with injuries.

"He has surprised me and a lot of other people in the

Continued Next Page



# Lamb

Continued From Page 15

defensive unit," Richardson said. "We didn't feel he had the foot speed to do some of the things he's been doing." That's what Ryan always said.

He was fast enough, Ditka said. Fast enough to play linebacker as long as linebackers didn't have to play like safeties.

"Coach Tobin doesn't put me in stressful situations covering wideouts," Rivera says. "Even when I cover a back, I have help behind me. I'm not in situations where I'm struggling to stay with a guy."

Most of all, Tobin doesn't expect Rivera to be Singletary. "Buddy always expected you to play the game north and south," Rivera says. "Buddy expected you to take one or two steps and boom! Go to the backfield." Like Singletary. Rivera's different. He was a college star roaming laterally along the line, then plugging the hole before the ball carrier got there.

That's what Tobin lets him do, and he's getting to the play instead of getting lost among the blockers. He's anticipating, not chasing. "His way is the right way, too," Ditka says.

"I think I'm beginning to prove myself little by little," Rivera says. "I've kind of proven my critics wrong." He could say that for the whole defense.

## Playoff tickets on sale

The NFL gave permission last week to the Bears to begin selling playoff tickets for two games at Soldier Field should the Bears qualify for the home-field advantage in the playoffs.

Ticket prices for the NFC semifinal game on Jan. 3 or 4 are \$15, \$22 and \$25. Ticket prices for the NFC Championship game Jan. 11 are \$20, \$27 and \$30.

The Bears mailed out invoices to season ticket holders last week. Payment must be received by Dec. 4. The Bears said an announcement on single-game sales for non-season ticket holders will be made later.



Bears coach Mike Ditka congratulates Dennis Gentry after Gentry recovered a blocked punt in the end zone for Chicago's only touchdown against Green Bay Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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# Outside distractions not just a problem for the Bears

Denver coach Dan Reeves dented his own credibility recently when he complained about that familiar demon, "outside distractions."

"I think the players will be the first to say we need to get back to football," Reeves said after his Broncos were upset 9-3 by the San Diego Chargers.

"It's a real short journey from the penthouse to the out-house," Reeves said. "For us to have won that ballgame might have done us more harm than to lose. All those outside distractions have got to cease."

Yet Reeves spent part of the day before the game filming two television commercials.

By  
Brian  
Hewitt



## NFL Notebook

Meanwhile a Denver television station has put together a video using local talent singing a song entitled, "We Love Elway" sung to the tune of songwriter/singer Randy Newman's "I Love L.A."

Among the people on the tape is Colorado governor Dick Lamm.

### CLOSE QUARTERS:

Now the real story can be told:

The reason 5-9 Bear quarterback Doug Flutie got the lousiest locker at the Bears' Lake Forest headquarters is because he wanted it that way.

Flutie's locker is nearest the toilet and farthest from the in-house phones and other three quarterbacks.

When the Bears signed Flutie Oct. 21, equipment manager Ray Earley offered Flutie a chance to move into wide receiver Ken Margerum's locker. The Bears had waived Margerum off injured reserve earlier the same day.

Flutie, sensitive to team politics, told Early he didn't want Margerum's locker even though it was in a better location.

"I said, 'You can have it,' Earley said. 'He said, 'No thanks. I'll stay away from that for a while.'"

Earley said Margerum's locker is still open, as is the locker of wide receiver Clay Pickering, whom the Bears waived Nov. 4, the day they activated Flutie.

### YOU KNOW ME AL:

New Charger head coach Al Saunders is rapidly gaining the reputation as the NFL's latest answer to Les Steckel. Steckel lasted one year (1984) with the Vikings as head coach before his militaristic approach to coaching forced management to fire him.

Saunders has relegated press members to bleachers during workouts. He has moved practices from early afternoon to late morning and players now must run everywhere they go once they leave the clubhouse.

They must also wear their helmets at all times. And they must kneel on one knee facing Saunders whenever he is talking to them.

"When I talk about discipline I don't mean, 'yes sir and no sir,'" Saunders says. "Discipline is doing something you don't necessarily want to do when you have to do it."

### SAUNDERS II:

After Saunders' Chargers upset the Broncos Nov. 9, he called it "my greatest thrill." Two days later he retracted the remark.

Apparently when Saunders got home after the game his wife was waiting at the door with his three children. She had heard the quote. "Didn't THEY mean anything?" Saunders' wife demanded, pointing at the children.

"The win has gone from first to fifth," said a chastened Saunders. "My marriage, the birth of my three kids and then the game."

Now THAT'S discipline.

### BOURBON ST. BEAT:

After the Saints beat the Rams and the 49ers back-to-back, their record was 5-5. Their confidence was never higher. "We've proved we can beat anybody," said Pro Bowl New Orleans linebacker Rickey Jackson. "We've

shown people we're no pushovers."

The Saints have never had a winning season in the history of the franchise. But this year could be different.

### SID AND NASTY:

Philadelphia coach Buddy Ryan's latest verbal victim was former Bears and Eagles assistant Sid Gillman. Ryan got mad recently when Gillman criticized Ryan's beloved 46 defense.

Gillman said the 46 was "unsound in principle." And, he said, it was too complicated.

Ryan's responses: "Sid's probably getting senile in his old age."

Meanwhile, Ryan's latest project is the conversion of 6-4, 262-pound defensive end Byron Darby to tight end. "Why not?" said Eagle tight end John Spagnola who has been in Ryan's doghouse all year. "The more the merrier."

**NOTES AND QUOTES:** Philadelphia quarterback Ron Jaworski has been sidelined by a finger injury. "Jaws" admits his future may be as a backup. "I knew I was dodging the bullet all along," he said. . . . The rumor mill says former St. Louis coach Jim Hanifan may replace the deposed Joe Kapp at Cal-Berkeley. . . . Cardinal defensive end Bubba Baker on 49er quarterback Joe Montana's three scoring passes against the Cardinals recently: "Those three touchdowns were blooper balls, nerf balls. Kids throw those." . . . In the last two years the Giants have knocked out three starting quarterbacks within their own division. Last year it was Redskin Joe Theismann. This year they've sent Cowboy Danny White and Eagle Ron Jaworski to the sideline with serious injuries. . . . By the end of the 30-21 Colt loss to New England Nov. 9 in Indianapolis the crowd was chanting, "Go back to Baltimore." . . . Houston coach Jerry Glanville after the Oilers' recent 32-28 upset victory over Cincinnati: "My wife and I went out in public for the first time in two months. We

Continued Page 19



Calvin Thomas was stopped by the Packer defense on this play but he managed to gain 30 yards on six carries in Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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# Big plays made by the big players again

By David Marran  
Special to the Bear Report

Once again it was a day of big plays by big players for the Bears' defense in Chicago's 12-1 victory over the Green Bay Packers Sunday.

The defensive fireworks started early when cornerback Mike Richardson intercepted a Randy Wright pass at the Green Bay 30-yard line on the Packers' first offensive play.

"Mike Richardson's interception was beautifully read," said safety Dave Duerson.

Minutes later, the defense struck again when defensive end Dan Hampton corralled Packer running back Kenneth Davis in his end zone to give the Bears a safety and a 2-0 lead.

Hampton was the catalyst for the Bears defense all afternoon, registering the safety, six tackles, two assists and three and a half sacks which totaled losses of 20 yards.

"Dan was outstanding," head coach Mike Ditka said. "Dan has something to prove; he doesn't have any love for those guys (Green Bay)."

"I think Dan has played well all year long. I just don't think he has gotten the recognition he deserves."

Linebacker Mike Singletary was more in awe of Hampton's performance than anything else.

"Oh goodness! He was just unbelievable," said Singletary. "He was ready to play. Hampton was coming off the ball and he was in their backfield all day. He just did a good job."

## Martin fires up Bears' defense

In the second quarter, Hampton and the defense got an added boost when Packer defensive tackle Charles Martin was ejected for slamming quarterback Jim McMahon to the turf.

"It definitely fired us up," Singletary said. "At that time, I have to be honest, we were ready to go fist-fight because there is no room in football for that. This is a football game, people come here for excitement, not that — at least I hope not."

"I never like to see that happen. When our guys do that, I'm the first one to say, 'Hey, we don't play like that.'"

"That guy, McMahon, just like everybody else, has a family to raise, people to look out for, people depending on him and there is just no room for that in football."

After the McMahon incident, the Bear defense dug in and, with the help of a psyched crowd, pushed the Packers back to their own 25-yard line, thanks in part to a 10-yard sack by defensive end Richard Dent.

On fourth down, the pumped-up Bear defense rose to the occasion once again. Safety Shaun Gayle blocked a Don Bracken punt into the end zone where Dennis Gentry fell on the ball for a touchdown.

"The special teams made a big mistake," Ditka said in reference to Green Bay's blocked punt earlier in the second quarter. "But they made the big play to get us the touchdown."

Gentry's touchdown gave the Bears a 9-0 halftime bulge and capped what could have been the defense's most dominant half of football all year. The Packers were only able to muster three first downs, 16 rushing yards, 13 passing yards and 2 pass completions.

However, the second half didn't start out as well as the first half ended.

The Packers took the half's opening kickoff, drove 52 yards and scored when Al Del Greco kicked a 22-yard field goal.

The defensive dominance went into further remission in the fourth quarter when Wright hit tight end Ed West, who had beaten Duerson, with a 46-yard touchdown pass to put the Packers out in front, 10-9.

"It was just a stupid play," Duerson said. "I just let my guy go. I saw Randy Wright scramble and I thought he made it to the line of scrimmage or crossed it, and I left my guy open."

## Defense comes through again

After that touchdown, the game looked to be lost, especially when the Bear offense failed to move the ball after getting decent field position. But, again, the defense came to the rescue.

Following a Bear punt, the Packers had the ball at their own 30-yard line with 6:26 left in the game.

On the first play of the series, Wright handed the ball to running back Gary Ellerson, who gained five yards before he coughed up the ball.

Duerson pounced on the fumble which put the Bears at the Green Bay 34-yard line.

"Our guys up front were doing such a great job," said Singletary, who forced the fumble.

"The center came off on me, I fought him off and I was fortunate enough to be in the hole and had a little time to get my body in perfect position. And I just went straight ahead and there was nowhere else for him (Ellerson) to go."

Six plays later, Kevin Butler kicked the field goal which gave the Bears the 12-10 win.

So for the second straight week, the Bear defense over-



Green Bay's Charles Martin puts pressure on Bear quarterback Jim McMahon just before Martin made the hit on McMahon that got him ejected from the game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

shadowed the Bear offense. But this lack of offense doesn't put any added pressure on the Bear defense, according to Singletary.

"We have to do a job every week," he said. "It doesn't matter how the offense plays, we have a job to do."

"Right now, the offense is trying to get some things together, and until then we just have to play above ourselves and I like that. I like having that responsibility."

After it was all said and done, a relieved Ditka stated the obvious.

"When a team is playing as hard as our defense is, anything can happen. We can accomplish anything."

"I am very thankful we have our defense. They play hard and have great pride."

## Anger

Continued From Page 3

is very special to Ditka. "There are few teams in the league I'd rather beat than the Green Bay Packers."

But they aren't all bad according to Singletary. "They got about three guys that aren't worth a crap, but the rest of them are pretty decent guys."

Ditka wouldn't say what kind of fine or suspension Martin should receive from Commissioner Pete Rozelle. "He'll see fit to do what he wants to do," Ditka said.

## Statistics

Continued From Page 4

	Bears						
	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	8	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jackson	3	1	0	0	0	2	1
Bell	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Richardson	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fencik	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
Perry	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	.5	-.9	0	1	0
Dent	3	2	2	-13	0	0	0
Hampton	6	2	3.5	-20	0	1	0
Ortego	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moorehead	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Mike Singletary.

Blocked Punt: Gayle.

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## Bear Report Letters

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**BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.**

### Tired Of Hearing Boos At Soldier Field

Dear Doug,

I am writing this because I am sick and tired of the way the Bears fans have reacted to the 1986 season so far. Just because the Bears have now lost two games doesn't mean they are not as good as last year.

What other Super Bowl winner has come back the next year and not lost at least three or four games? I'll tell you, none. It's tough with every team doing their best against you each week.

Also, I would like to comment on the boos that I heard at Soldier Field during the Monday night game. Boos are in no way going to help your favorite team. If anything, what a team needs to hear when it's down is some encouraging cheers. It's too bad they had to come back and score in order for the crowd to be back on their side. Stick with the team.

Steve Fuller made a few mistakes, but he'll come back, Ditka wouldn't have put him back in if he hadn't had confidence in him. As for me, I'll keep cheering no matter what this year because all I have to do is remember when the Bears weren't even contenders.

And now it's nice to see them in every game, even if they don't win them all. I'm behind them win or lose because they are truly a great bunch of players, no matter what their record. I'm behind you Bears. Good luck the rest of the year, I'll be cheering you on.

Brian Jerman  
Colorado Springs, CO

### Johnson Shows He's Jealous

Dear Doug,

Thanks for the great job you do with the Bear Report. We love it. I would like to thank Walter Payton for the great job he's done. He's the best ever! To Mike Ditka and the Bears, you've made me a proud Bear fan. I think the team as a whole is better than last year.

To the jerk Johnson, I don't blame you for writing the Bear Report, the Pokes can't read anyway. If you read between the lines I see jealousy. You are right, the whole world is laughing, especially after the Cowgirls lost to the Raiders. I also understand why the Dallas Daiseys are waiting for Dec. 21. It's the closest they're going to get to the Super Bowl. Dallas has gone from America's Team to America's Nightmare.

Guy A. Neuses  
Rolling Meadows, IL

### Laughing All Year At The Cowboys

Dear Doug,

I am writing in reply to John Johnson's letter. His letter didn't impress me a bit, and I'm sure that it didn't impress any other Bear fan, as well as anyone who enjoys the game of football. I would just like to ask Mr. Johnson, just how many offensive line-men, not counting, Doug Cosbie, made the Pro Bowl last February? And didn't Danny White go out of last years' Bears-Cowboys game courtesy of Otis Wilson and the rest of the Bears' defense? And didn't he just go out with a broken wrist two weeks ago

against the Giants? Who did you say was the WIMP? Boy John, you have a lot of room to talk, when mentioning quarterbacks!

Steve Fuller beat your joke of a team 44-0 if I do remember correctly. I used to think that it was just the joke fans here that were cry babies, but obviously it's just typical of all your kind.

And now just a few words before I close. Doomsday Dec. 21? With the way you're acting, it will be more like Dumbsday! And speaking of laughing, I've been laughing all season, you have an all-pro tight end an all-pro wide receiver and the finest back-field in the league, and look at your pitiful record. You're looking at a 16-game season. And I'm also laughing, as most other people are, at you. See you Dec. 21!

Mike Taylor  
Woodhull, IL

### Why Publish Letters From Johnson?

Dear Doug,

I have just finished my November 17th issue of the Bear Report, and although I enjoyed the photos, articles and stats, one item compelled me to write.

I do not understand why you have published yet another letter from that yo-yo in Dallas. This person seems to be on the same level as a doorknob when it comes to football. The only explanation I have of him is that he must be in reality a depressed Cowboy fan that is only 12 years old.

May I please not see his aimless ramblings in my Bear Report again? You do no service to yourself or your readers in becoming a soapbox for this person's rhetoric.

Roy A. Mattocks  
Rockford, IL

### What's The World Saying About A 7-4 Team?

Dear Doug,

This is in response to Mr. John Johnson, of Dallas. You better watch what you're saying! You say watch for a sign saying, "The Whole World's Laughing." Well you shouldn't be talking, with a record of 7-4, Dallas isn't exactly stomping all over the opposition, it's vice-versa.

Mr. Johnson, if the Dallas line could block, Danny White would be playing. And about your comment about sweetness, at least show some respect.

Mr. Johnson, if the whole world's laughing at a 9-2 team imagine what they are doing over a 7-4 team that has an ego problem.

Mr. Johnson the Bears aren't perfect. We have some injury problems. I can't wait till December 21st. I'm not going to say anything because it's going to be a good game. One way or another a team is going to win and with your attitude it may be just like last year.

Who knows Mr. Johnson, maybe the Pokes will turn into jokes. The Bears are a great team but last year is over. They're the same great time but with some problems, but they will be ironed

out by Dec. 21.

So Mr. Johnson remember this famous quote from Vince Lombardi, "for he wishes not to seem, but to be the best."

Mike Peters  
Sharon, WI

### Johnson's Letter Is Hilarious

Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to Mr. John Johnson of Dallas.

Well Mr. Johnson, after your very hilarious letter in the Bear Report, I am sure the whole world is laughing, but at your letter, not the Bears!

You are correct, the Bears have not completely destroyed teams as they did in 1985. But you should be grateful maybe Dec. 21 will only end up 22-0, in favor of the Bears of course. Johnny boy, do you recall a certain game last year that ended up 44-0? Who played that game in Texas Stadium Johnny? The Bears kicked your sweet little Cowboys butts every way possible! Talk about a laugh, we sure had a good one up here in Bear Country! Oh yes, who started at quarterback for the Bears that day, Johnny? It was Steve Fuller, who is rumored up here to have trouble passing the dinner plate, sure no trouble against that tremendous Dallas defense.

Don't worry, we can hardly wait for Dec. 21 either! It's fun coming down and kicking Cowboy butts in front of the whole country! It will happen again this year, too. Now when are the Big Bad Cowboys going to ever show up in Soldier Field? Every time a game is played between the Bears and Cowboys it's in Dallas. But that's alright. I doubt the pansies who wear Cowboy uniforms could survive a real football day, weatherwise!

Now I'll tell you, that 7-4 Dallas record would strike fear in any opponent's heart. But don't get your hopes up, the Bears will be there. The Bears may use all four quarterbacks that day to see what each can do for the upcoming playoffs and Super Bowl. When you are playing a team of the caliber of the Cowboys, that's the time to give everyone a chance to play, not just quarterbacks. Do you have plenty of gas in that little golf cart you use to haul injured players on? Danny White nearly wore it out last year with constant trips to the dressing room for injuries. Better tell him to stay off the field this time, or he may need a hearse rather than a golf cart! Try starting one of your darling little cheerleaders, maybe the Bears would go easier on them. Then, maybe not!

Well Johnny boy, can't wait till Dec. 21 when the Bears completely destroy the Cowboys in front of all of you. After this slaughter, think you'll take the Bears serious?

Instead of signing the name John Johnson to your letter, why didn't you just sign Tom Landry? But I don't blame you, your name might be real easy to look up in the phone book and there are a lot of Bear fans coming down for the game. Imagine there are a lot of John Johnsons in the phone book. But what else can you expect from a Dallas Cowboy fan?

Steve Leffler  
Bloomington, Illinois



Chicago's Keith Ortego makes sure the Packers' Mark Lee is down after Lee intercepted a pass by Jim McMahon. McMahon threw three interceptions in the game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

## Hewitt

Continued From Page 17

ate dinner with people around us and nobody threw anything." . . . Ram running back Eric Dickerson had 13 fumbles after 10 games. His career high was 15 in 1984. . . . Dallas coach Tom Landry on quarterback Steve Pelluer: "We were worried about his unemotional attitude. You need a little emotion at times. Even I have emotion once in a while." . . . San Francisco coach Bill Walsh, a new appointee to the league's powerful Competition Committee, is proposing new legislation to deal with the epidemic of quarterback injuries. "I think there's an intense feeling that there's far too much contact on the quarterbacks," he said. "By and large, it's uncalled for." . . . the Complete Athlete, a sporting goods store within walking distance of the Hoosier Dome, is selling six times as many Bear souvenirs as Colts souvenirs. . . . When the Giants and the Vikings faced each other Nov. 16 it was the first time in the history of their regular season rivalry that Fran Tarkenton won't start at quarterback for one of the teams. The Giants won.



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